

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06911 142249Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /056 W
-----142251Z 006124 /70

R 131127Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3380
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6911

EMO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IN BG
SUBJECT: FARAKKA: TALKS ADJOURNED

1. THE SIX-DAY "TECHNICAL LEVEA" TALKS ON FARAKKA
CONCLUDED MAY 11 IN NEW DELHI WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT THEY WILL RESUME NEXT MONTH IN DACCA. ACCORDING
TO AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE END OF THE TALKS,
THEY" COVERED CONSIDERABLE GROUND ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS
OF AN AGREEMENT OF SHARING THE GANGA WATERS AT FARAKKA
AND ON LONG TERMS SOLUTIONS." THE TPKS WERE DESCRIBED AFS
HAVING BEEN HELD IN A " CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE."
WHILE IN DELHI, BANGLADDSHI DELEGATION LEADER B. M. ABBAS
PAID CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER DESAI, FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE
AND DEFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM.

2. BANGLADESH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER REZAUL KARIM TOLD
THE CHARGE MAY 12 THAT THE TALKS HAD GONE "ALL RIGHT",
HE SAID THAT THE EARLIER AGREEMENT ON
THE LEAN PERIOD DISTRIBUTION HAD NOT BEEN QUESTIONED AND
WHILE INDIAN BARGAINING ON OTHER ISSUES HAD BEEN HARD, HE WAS
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NOT DISCOURAGED. EARLIER ON MAY 10 DURING A CALL BY THE CAHRGE
FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA HAD DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS"INCHING
ALONG" BUT PROGRESSING. MEHTA SAID THAT THE GOI RECOGNIZED THAT INDIA,

IN FACT BOTH SIDES, SUFFERED DISABILITIES IN THE SHORT TERM
AND THEREFORE THE SHORT TERM SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE FOR A
BRIEF PERIOD BECAUSE IT INVOLVED UNRESOLVED TECHNICAL,

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

3. WORK ON THE LONG-TERM SETTLEMENT, MEHTA SAID, WAS MOVING VERY SLOWLY. HE SAID THAT HE HAD REMINDED HIMSELF THAT THE INDUS SETTLEMENT HAD TAKEN 10 YEARS. ANTICIPATING THE INCONCLUSIVE END OF THE DELHI ROUND, MEHTA SAID THAT NO CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE DRAWN IF AN AGREEMENT WAS NOT REACHED AT THIS TIME. MEHTA HOPED THE BANGLADESHIS WOULD VIEW THE SITUATION IN THE SAME WAY.

4. IT WOULD APPEAR FROM KARIM'S REMARKS THAT THE BANGLADESHIS HAVE ACCEPTED MEHTA'S VIEW THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. HOWEVER, KARIM ALSO NOTED THAT THE INDIANS WERE GOOD NEGOTIATORS AND ALWAYS GOT THEIR PRICE FIRST, I.E. THAT THE INDIANS HAD GAINED SOME ADVANTAGE PRESUMABLY IN TERMS OF THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION.

5. THE DELHI PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT TWO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MADE BOTH SIDES RELUCTANT TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME. ONE WAS THE INDIAN CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE THAT COULD BE MADE OF A FARAKKA AGREEMENT IN THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH. ON THE BANGLADESHI SIDE, REPORTEDLY THERE WAS A DESIRE TO POSTPONE A DECISION UNTIL AFTER THE REFERENDUM ON GENERAL ZIA'S RULE MAY 30.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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